

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-10 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Harris is respectfully requested.

The present invention as claimed in claim 1 concerns a drive unit for a collecting and stitching apparatus. The drive unit is comprised of at least one first servo drive and a collector chain drive which is connected to the collector chain and configured to control the first servo drive through a signal line in a synchronously timed manner. The first servo drive is configured to drive additional units of the apparatus by direct control via the collector chain motor in master/slave relation.

This configuration is illustrated in Fig. 1 of the present application as follows:



As described in the instant specification, the drive 19 is the master and provides the control commands and the servo drive 22 the slave controlled by the master. This is a direct and immediate control of one motor by the other. Such a direct and immediate control between the chain motor and the servo motors for additional devices is not disclosed in the prior art.

Harris discloses a motor 20 for driving the chain 12 but does not show this chain motor to directly control a servo motor via a signal line in a synchronously timed manner. The signals of the chain drive 20 are fed via line 24 into a central processor 22 and not to a servo drive which operates further members such as feeder, stitching mechanism, trimmer of the apparatus. A direct synchronously timed control of the servo device driving various devices of the apparatus by means of the collector chain drive is neither disclosed in Harris nor in U.S. 4,768,766 which the examiner makes reference to as being exemplary of such a control.

U.S. 4,768,766 describes a system for collecting and binding magazines and for printing addresses or a personalized message onto each magazine. The system comprises a main control data processor, means for storing coded messages and address data, and a reader. Binding lines for collecting the printed sheets of the magazine and for printing a personalized message/address onto the magazines are provided. A line control data processor is connected to the bindery lines and controls the selection and combination of printed sheets and the personalized text. A communication network connects the main control with each line control and transmits the information from the main control to the line controls. There is no direct control of a servo motor driving additional devices by means of the collector chain motor.

To demonstrate the difference in the type of control performed by the prior art reference U.S. 4,768,766 and the present invention, Applicant submits a sketch based on Fig. 4 of U.S. 4,768,766 illustrating in red ink how the inventive control would be arranged and connected in contrast to the one disclosed in U.S. 4,768,766. Clearly, the arrangement of the present invention is quite different from the one disclosed in the prior art.

The same difference in regard to the connection schematic would also apply to Harris, i.e., the arrangement illustrated in red ink comprised of a signal line (20) connecting the controls (R1, R2) of the two motors (M1, M2) to one another with the servo motor (M1) in driving connection with the additional devices is not shown.

The examiner furthermore points to Chang (U.S. 5,777,443) as disclosing an arrangement as claimed in the present invention. This reference relates to controlling two binding lines independently from one another or synchronously with one another, as needed. An important difference to the present invention is that the collector chains 145, 146 and the additional units (57) associated with each collector chain are mechanically connected with one another - this eliminates the need for controlling

additional units synchronously with the collector chain because the additional units are mechanically coupled and therefore driven synchronously.

Applicant therefore believes that claim 1 and its dependent claims are neither anticipated nor obvious in view of the cited prior art.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claim 4 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Harris is respectfully requested.

Claim 4 is believed to be allowable as a dependent claim of claim 1.

Therefore, in view of the foregoing, it is submitted that this application is now in condition for allowance and such allowance is respectfully solicited.

Any additional fees or charges required at this time in connection with the application may be charged to Patent and Trademark Office Deposit Account No. 11-1835.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: May 2, 2002

Encl.: sketch comparing U.S. 4,768,766 with the invention;
petition for time extension

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, on May 2, 2002

By: *Friedrich Kueffner*
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Date: May 2, 2002

